MoU with the Suez Canal Authority

475. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Suez Canal Authority to utilise their expertise for the implementation of Sethu-Samudram Ship Channel Project;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a high level team had a discussion with the Suez Canal Authority at Cairo recently; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the said discussion?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A delegation led by Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways visited Suez Canal in November, 2004. Another team comprising Joint Secretary from the Department of Shipping and Chairman and Managing Director, Sethusamudram Corporation Limited visited Suez Canal Authority in June, 2005 to finalize the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Suez Canal Authority and Sethusamudram Corporation Limited.

(c) The draft of the MoU has been discussed and finalized. The MoU, *inter-alia,* envisages exchange of information, expertise and technological advancements; training of personnel; technical cooperation between the two authorities.

Construction of flyovers

476. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the flyovers constructed in various States during the last three years, pleased to state-wise;

(b) the number of flyovers proposed to be constructed during the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the details of funds granted for the same indicating the target set and achievements made in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA):(a) This

Ministry is primarily responsible for the construction and maintenance of the National Highways in the country. During the last three years ninety eight flyovers have been constructed on National Highways in various States. State-wise details are in the Statement—I (*See* below).

(b) Fifty flyovers (Forty eight under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) and two on Non-NHDP National Highways) are proposed to be taken up for construction during the current financial year. The State-wise details are in the Statement—II (*See* below).

(c) The estimated cost of flyovers mentioned at (b) above is Rs. 550.60 lakhs, excluding the cost of flyovers proposed to be constructed under NHDP. In NHDP stretches, the flyovers from part of road packages. However,the allocation to executing agencies including State Public Works departments is made as lump sum and not for flyovers separately. The proposals for flyovers to be constructed on Non-NHDP National Highways have already been sanctioned and are targeted for completion by March, 2006. As regards the flyovers under NHDP, their completion is linked with the overall road packages.

Statement—I

Flyovers constructed in various States during last three years

Sl. No.	State/UT	Flyovers constructed during 2002-03 to 2004-05
1	Andhra Pradesh	7
2	Bihar	1
3	Gujarat	6
4	Kanrataka	32
5	Maharashtra	12
6	Orissa	6
7	Punjab	2
8	Rajasthan	10
9	Tamil Nadu	17
10	Uttar Pradesh	4
11	West Bengal	1
	TOTAL:	98

Statement-II

Flyovers proposed to be constructed in various States during current year

Sl No.	State/UT	Flyovers proposed to be taken up on non NHDP for construction during current financial year 2005-06	Flyovers proposed to be constructed during 2005-06 under NHDP
1	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	1
2	Bihar	Nil	5
3	Delhi	Nil	4
4	Haryana	Nil	7
5	Jammu & Kashmir	1	Nil
6	Karnataka	1	12
7	Maharashtra	Nil	2
8	Orissa	Nil	4
9	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	11
10	West Bengal	Nil	2
	TOTAL:	2	48

Delay in Golden Quadrilateral Project

477. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Golden Quadrilateral Project initiated by the NDA Government for linking four metros and some other major cities;

(b) whether there have been heavy time overrun and cost of this project due to some major bottlenecks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the same and ensure early completion of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) 4/6 laning of 84% of Golden Quadrilateral has been completed as on 30.06.2005. There has been some delays in some of the contracts